THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) An Annual Programme is prepared every year by the Department of Official Language to do official work in Hindi in which targets are fixed for the Indian Missions abroad also. Apart from this, a proforma of quarterly progress report has also been issued to the Indian Missions etc. abroad for monitoring the progress of Hindi. Review of the progress made in Hindi in the Missions is required to be done by their administrative Ministry (Ministry of External Affairs).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of External Affairs have prepared a consolidated scheme for teaching Hindi to the foreigners through Indian Missions abroad and for this purpose 10 Visiting Professors of Hindi have been appointed in various countries. With the cooperation of Indian Missions, some Indian Cultural Centres also conduct classes to teach Hindi. Indian Missions abroad remain in touch with local organizations, autonomous organizations etc. to meet their Hindi related requirements and provide free teaching material and financial assistance to them.

Crimes against kids

2424. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media reports about increase in crime against kids;

(b) if so, the crimes committed against kids available as per the National Crime Records Bureau during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Andhra Pradesh State ranks eighth at the national level in crimes against children;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the situation has worsened this year as result of large number of child marriages; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent child marriages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), based on data received from State Government, compiles State/UT-wise, crime head-wise details of Crimes against children (upto 18 years of age). The figures for 2001 to 2003 are given in the Annexure and they indicate a mixed trend. [*See* appendix 205 Annexure No. 8]

(c) and (d) The rank of Andhra Pradesh at the National level in crimes against children was 8th in 2002 and 4th in 2003.

(e) As per statistics complied by the NCRB, the cases registered under Child Marriage Restraint Act during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 were 85, 113 and 63 respectively, while total number of cases of crimes against children registered were 10814, 10469 and 11633 respectively.

(f) The Government of India has enacted the 'Child Marriage Restraint Act' to prevent incidence of child marriages in the country. The administration and implementation of the Act is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Modernisation of forensic science laboratory, Sagar

†2425. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have forwarded any proposal regarding modernization, building construction and purchase of equipments for forensic science laboratory, Sagar;

(b) if so, the decision Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) time by when Government would release the amount sought for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent their annual plan for modernisation of State police forces for 2005-06 in which the requirement of forensic science laboratory at Sagar for various equipment has been included amounting to Rs.95.00 lakh. The proposal is being examined.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.